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Committee for a free Asia, inc.

A MESSAGE TO ALL *Asian Students* IN THE UNITED STATES

a message . . .

FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO EACH ASIAN STUDENT IN THE UNITED STATES

The freedom of the people of Asia is a matter of grave concern to free men everywhere. That concern must be translated into action. The work that governments do is not enough; governments cannot penetrate the secret places of men's minds. Because free men the world over must concern themselves with the onslaught of communist imperialism and because that onslaught now so seriously threatens the freedom of Asia, this Committee of private citizens has been formed to translate that concern into action.

The purpose of this Committee is to establish channels of direct communication between the people of Asia and the people of the free world everywhere. Through those channels an exchange of the thoughts, the hopes and the inspirations of the people of Asia with the people of America and of Europe can weld a union of free men which will roll back the dark forces of Soviet imperialism.

The program of the Committee for a Free Asia is offered to the friends of Asia in order that they may bring to it their advice and their understanding and give to it the full strength of their support.

Brayton Wilbur

CHAIRMAN

the problem we face . . .

The Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. has been created at a time when the free world is in grave peril. The basic issue of freedom versus slavery is being fought today just as it was many times in the past against tyrants and dictators. The communist conspiracy to overthrow national freedom and destroy individual liberty is more menacing to human rights and freedom than any totalitarian threat in the past. Students of today do not merely face a world of difficulty, wherein the struggle for economic solvency and social security is hard. Students today, alongside their elders, are involved in a fight for survival. Life under communist tyranny is not the life we believe in or can tolerate. It is a transitory existence dominated by abject fear and subject to sudden "liquidation" through decrees and orders which the individual is powerless to affect and cannot escape.

Preservation of a free society demands that all who love freedom band together in the fight for and defense of freedom. The Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. has been organized by those interested in making this fight in the Asian area. Its success will depend in large part on the support it receives from the students of the free world. Its challenge may not be ignored by anyone who cherishes liberty and believes in the dignity of man.

It is clear today that enjoyment of certain inalienable rights involves a responsibility to do one's share in preserving those rights. Those interested in a free Asia cannot sit idly in a free America while the Red tide which has flowed across China continues to flood adjoining and adjacent nations. A student campaign organized here on behalf of freedom for all Asia will arouse other students across the Pacific to take active measures in defense of their freedoms and integrity.

The Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. expects to be the catalyst in a freedom movement that will halt the communist expansion in Asia in its tracks, then force its retreat with the emancipation of those now helpless beneath it.

THE COMMITTEE has been gratified at the interest shown in its work during its first months of activation. This interest, it should be stated, has taken the form of questions directed to Committee members as to their intentions and modus operandi. The questions were fair and we hope our answers have been helpful.

The most penetrating questions which have been asked, and their replies, follow:

QUESTIONS

1. When and where was the Committee for a Free Asia organized and what is it trying to do?

2. How did it originate?

ANSWERS

In San Francisco, California, on May 18, 1951. Its purpose is most clearly explained by the second paragraph of the Chairman's inaugural Message: "To establish channels of direct communication between the peoples of Asia and the people of the Free World everywhere." The Statement of Purposes filed with the State of California is also a clear exposition of the intentions of the Committee.

A group of Americans, predominantly living and working on the West Coast, had watched with great interest the founding and subsequent progress of the National Committee for a Free Europe. Their anxiety over communist imperialist expansion in Asia was not lessened by their belief that the government-to-government relationships between the United States on the one hand and individual Asian nations on the other are not adequate for giving assistance to individual leadership in Asia capable of safeguarding the aspirations of the individual for the personal and national freedom he so clearly desires. In the psychological field there has long been a substantial group of Americans believing that the Voice of America program alone is insufficient to expose and defeat the international communist conspiracy or to explain to Asians how fully the American people support their intentions and determination to remain personally and politically free.

The West Coast group referred to, therefore, decided to organize and secure financial backing for an Asian Committee dedicated to support liberty and freedom in Asia.

The Executive Committee consists of Mr. Brayton Wilbur, Chairman; Mr. Turner H. McBaine, Secretary; Mr. Charles R. Blyth, Treasurer; Mr. A. Crawford Greene; Mr. T. S. Petersen; Mr. J. D. Zellerbach; and Mr. George H. Greene, Jr., President.

3. What form has the organization of the Committee taken?

Under the President are two vice-presidents; one for administration, who directs and takes care of the normal administration functions of any corporation; the other is in charge of program operations. At present these operations are divided into ten divisions: Student Relations (which prepared this introductory brochure); Asian Residents Contacts; Foreign Organizations; Editorial; Publications; Radio Broadcast; Historical Research; Overseas Chinese Contacts; Lecturers; and Public Relations.

4. In what way is the Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. affiliated with the National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. and the Crusade for Freedom?

The two Committees are organized groups of volunteer citizens concerned with the fight against communism. There is mutual cooperation and support, although the activities of the National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. are directed specifically toward Europe, while the Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. concentrates its activity in the direction of the East. The Crusade for Freedom is the organization created to raise funds with which the Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. is financed.

5. How is the Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. financed?

The Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. will be recipient, together with the National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc., of funds raised by the Crusade for Freedom. The Committee for a Free Asia, Inc. will not solicit funds, although additional financial support from individual citizens, foundations, etc., will be welcomed.

6. Will the Committee publish literature, such as political pamphlets?

The Committee will issue written material which will be made available to interested newspapers and periodicals in Asia and which will be used in publications of the Committee itself. Content will be factual reports from Communist-held territories and progress reports on Asian groups resisting totalitarian pressure; also narratives, expositions and essays of opinion by Asian writers on current topics relating to their freedom and independence.

The volume of editorial output will depend on the response to the Committee's program from Asia and from Asian students and residents now in the United States. If the word "political" is understood to include freedom's fight against tyranny, the Committee will issue political pamphlets. The Committee will not issue political tracts, in the conventional meaning of the term, nor will the Committee support one political party as against another. The Committee members represent different domestic political points of view in the United States, but they all have identical views on liberty and freedom. Similarly, the Committee is aware that each foreign country has political group differences in domestic issues. The Committee will not take sides on these issues. It supports every Asian political group that is for national independence and against tyranny and imperialism. The imperialism of today is communist imperialism.

7. Is the Committee connected in any way with the Government of the United States?

No.

8. Will the Committee publish newspapers or periodicals in a specific Asian language for distribution in a specific Asian country?

This question has been asked repeatedly, so there is clearly much interest in it. From the viewpoint of the Committee, however, the question is premature. The immediate answer would be, No. In general, we wish to be sure of the need for a given publication and assurance that it will fill a vacuum not otherwise satisfiable before embarking on a publishing venture.

9. Will the Committee build, own and/or operate radio stations?

A sensationally successful operation of the National Committee for Free Europe has been its aerial outlet, the Radio Free Europe. We like the idea of a Radio Free Asia very much. We plan to operate a station or stations carrying this proud title. Again, maximum cooperation from the people of Asia will be needed to make the radio program a success.

10. How will the Committee's radio programs differ from those of the Voice of America?

The Voice of America is a government-owned radio station and operates within the limits prescribed by the Congress of the United States and certain confining restrictives issued by the Department of State for good and sufficient reasons of national policy.

Radio Free Asia will be a private project telling the facts about events in Asia, unlimited by restrictions binding the Government station. There will be no necessity to emphasize the United States or its policies, or to devote a prearranged proportion of time on the air to exposition and projection of the American Way of Life.

Radio Free Asia will be designed to serve the cause of freedom through factual broadcasts directed to the ordinary citizens of Asian countries. It will explain what happens where the communists take control and will show the value of actively supporting the freedom movement by opposing communist imperialist aggression and any other totalitarian attacks on individual liberty and national independence.

11. What is the attitude of the United States Government toward the Committee for a Free Asia?

Insofar as we can assess it, the attitude of the Government in Washington is friendly and cooperative, but the Committee itself has no connection with the Government.

12. What will be the attitude of the Committee toward political parties in Asian countries?

As a non-political organization, the Committee for a Free Asia does not intend to work directly with political leaders or parties. The Committee has its stated principles, purposes and intentions. Any group in Asia, governmental or private, political or non-political, subscribing to the same ideals may support the Committee's program and will have the Committee's support. The Committee does not propose to become involved with parties or governments but rather to cooperate with the private citizens of Asia.

13. Does the Committee intend to distribute material about Asia to United States newspapers and periodicals?

The Committee believes that the proper interpreters of Asia to the American public are the people of Asia themselves. We hold that our common belief in the dignity of the individual (which our peoples deeply feel and share) gives us a common meeting ground and a unity of purpose for cooperative action. We recognize, however, that Eastern and Western backgrounds, philosophies and ethical conventions frequently are different. Whereas Asia has been exposed to both the best and worst of Western thought and practices, the impact of the East on Euro-American society has been more subtle than diffuse. The contribution that Asian thought can make to the West in inspiring mental poise, gentleness in social behavior, and overcoming prejudice in human relationships is great indeed.

The Committee hopes to inspire and give amplificatory assistance to the voices of Asia, and may transmit to the American press examples of Asian writing and thinking. The Committee will also release to the press news of its own activities. But it will not set itself up as an exclusive authority on Asian subjects and consequently invites criticism, advice and information from you at all times.

14. How may Asian students take part in the program?

First by recognizing that the Committee is a concrete manifestation of the interest of the American people in the personal and political freedom of the people of Asia, and then transmitting this fact by letter to your friends in your homeland.

Secondly, by keeping in touch with the Committee and its developing program. "To establish channels of direct communication between the people of Asia and the people of the free world everywhere" means that we must enlist the talents of as many interested persons as possible. The Committee solicits manuscripts from Asian students giving information and opinions on current affairs in the areas of their special knowledge and concern. We are interested in what is new and what is true, but would add the caution that what is new must be true, and the true should be new in order to attract interest and attention. If we can get illumination from Asia, we will be able the better to aid Asia in her historic fight against communist imperialism.

The Committee foresees for its student affiliates more activities than a literary program. In a campaign of public enlightenment there are the visual, radio-TV, lecture platform and other fields which the Committee may use with Asian students taking part in the programs. There will be selected tours for students in North America. Within the Students Relations Branch will be set up an employment contacts section to aid certain students unable to return to their domiciles, during their stay in the United States.

Interested students might familiarize themselves with the program of the National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. which is already in successful operation. We invite critiques of the European projects as they apply to Asia. If it "works" in Europe will it succeed in Asia—or automatically fail? Why or why not?

Can we speak definitely of Asia as an integrated unit? Is there an affinity throughout the area now generally known as Southeast Asia? The answers to these and other pertinent questions will be greatly appreciated. All replies become the common property of the people of the free world. If we use your material we will credit you with authorship unless you prefer and ask for anonymity. Similarly, we will use names of places and persons as given, or maintain confidence as to source if you indicate the use of real names might cause harm to the persons mentioned.

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

From the Articles of Incorporation
of the Committee for a Free Asia, Inc.

To promote, aid and assist the cause of individual and national freedom in Asia as opposed to Communist and other totalitarian doctrines.

To initiate, assist and conduct, directly or indirectly, studies relating to such cause; and to obtain, collect, analyze, publish, broadcast, disseminate and distribute information relating thereto through any and all media of communication.

To assist non-Communist and nontotalitarian elements in the countries of Asia in realizing and maintaining the ideals of individual and national freedom.

To assist non-Communist and nontotalitarian travelers, refugees and exiles from the countries of Asia in maintaining contact with their fellow citizens for the purpose of keeping alive and promoting the ideals of individual and national freedom; and to make available facilities whereby these travelers, refugees and exiles can contribute to the cause of the maintenance of freedom under law.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brayton Wilbur, *Chairman*
Charles R. Blyth, *Treasurer*
Turner H. McBaine, *Secretary*
A. Crawford Greene
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